

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/549,419	AHN, YOUNG-GI
	Examiner Robert J. Sandy	Art Unit 3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the application filed on 15 September 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: Republic of Korea appl no. 20-2003-0008294.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Simon Shim, for James Bame (Reg. No. 44,521, customer number 52,706) on 08 November 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 1-6 each have been amended to remove drawing reference numerals, as to the following final form:

1 (currently amended). A shoelace tying device comprising:

a housing;

a pair of lace passages, into which both free ends of the shoelace are threaded to penetrate therethrough, respectively;

a pair of shuttles, which are reciprocatable so as to widen or narrow a width of the lace passages, respectively, when the shoelace, penetrating through the lace passages, is pulled to tighten a shoe, the shuttles being moved to widen the width of the lace passages, respectively, thereby securing free movement of the shoelace, whereas, when the shoelace is untied to loosen the shoe, the shuttles being moved to narrow the width of the lace passages, respectively, thereby restricting the movement of the shoelace;

a pair of elastic members adapted to apply elasticity to the shuttles, respectively, for allowing the shuttles to move so as to narrow the width of the respective lace passages;

and a release button adapted to cause the shuttles to move so as to widen the width of the lace passages as it is manually pushed.

2 (currently amended). The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

a pair of inclined protrusions are obliquely arranged adjacent to the shuttles inside a space defined between an upper wall and a lower wall of the housing, respectively;

spaces defined between the upper wall and the lower wall around the respective inclined protrusions define the lace passages, respectively; and

the inclined protrusions are positioned so that they are upwardly close to or downwardly apart from a vertical movement path of the shuttles, thereby causing the lace passages to be narrowed or widen according to vertical movements of the shuttles.

3 (currently amended). The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the shuttles are toothed wheels, and are reciprocatably fitted in shuttle slots formed at upper and lower sides of the housing.

4 (currently amended). The device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elastic members are torsion springs incorporated in the housing.

5 (currently amended). The device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a shoelace holder incorporated in the housing, into which both hanging ends of the shoelace are fitted and tied.

6 (currently amended). The device as set forth in claim 5, wherein the shoelace holder includes:

a pair of connecting rods connected at their one-side ends to the housing;

a holder body connected to the other ends of the connecting rods and having a plurality of holes for allowing the shoelace to be threaded therethrough into a bow-shaped knot one surface of the holder body being opened to allow the shoelace to approach the holes; and

a cap for covering the opened surface of the holder body.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1 through 6 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a shoelace tying device having the structural combination requiring at least a pair of elastic members adapted to apply elasticity to the shuttles, respectively, for allowing the shuttles to move so as to narrow the width of the respective lace passages; and a release button adapted to cause the shuttles to move so as to widen the width of the lace passages as it is manually pushed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. General shoelace tying device structure is represented by the prior art references by Horge (U. S. Patent No. 4,680,835), Hirsch (U. S. Patent No. 2,236,506), Dickie et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,029,323), and Larsen (U. S. Patent No. 3,813,737). However, each of these references do not have the requisite pair of elastic members adapted to apply elasticity to the shuttles, respectively, for allowing the shuttles to move so as to narrow the width of the respective lace passages; and a release button adapted to cause the shuttles to move so as to widen the width of the lace passages as it is manually pushed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J. Sandy whose telephone number is 571-272-7073. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J.J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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